

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling the recoil temperature of metal strip in a continuous heat treatment line, which comprises continuously passing hot, heat-treated ~~metal~~ aluminum strip having a thickness of about 0.1 to 6.0 mm alternately around spaced apart accumulator rolls, exposing the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip to ambient cooling air while travelling between said spaced apart rolls at a speed of about 6-120 m/min, controlling the temperature of the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip emerging from the accumulator rolls by varying sensing temperature conditions of the aluminum strip and communicating said sensed temperature conditions to a controller which acts to vary the distance between said spaced apart rolls to thereby vary the length of ~~metal~~ aluminum strip exposed to said cooling air and rewinding the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip at a controlled temperature in coil form.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~roll spacing is controlled by sensing~~ temperature conditions of the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip are sensed immediately before rewinding ~~and communicating said sensed temperature conditions to a controller which controls the spacing of the accumulator rolls.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1 wherein temperature conditions of the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip are sensed upstream of the accumulator rolls ~~and communicated to the~~

~~controller for further control of the spacing of the accumulator rolls.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3 1 wherein the controller is programmed and stores information on the ~~metal~~ aluminum strip thickness, width and travel speed.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4 wherein the controller also stores information on the heat transfer coefficient, pressure and temperature of the heat transfer media.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 1 wherein the accumulator rolls are arranged in spaced apart rows of rolls between which the aluminum strip alternately passes and the length of aluminum strip passing around the accumulator rolls is controlled by varying the spacing of the rows of rolls.

Claims 8-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 1 wherein the aluminum strip has an initial temperature of up to 160°C and is cooled to a temperature in the range of ambient to 130°C for rewinding.

Claims 11-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (new): A method of controlling the recoil temperature of metal strip in a continuous heat treatment line, which comprises continuously passing hot, heat-treated aluminum strip having a thickness of about 0.1 to 6.0 mm alternately around

spaced apart accumulator rolls, exposing the aluminum strip to ambient cooling air while travelling between said spaced apart rolls, controlling the temperature of the aluminum strip emerging from the accumulator rolls by sensing temperature conditions of the aluminum strip and communicating said sensed temperature conditions to a controller which acts to vary the distance between said spaced apart rolls to thereby vary the length of aluminum strip exposed to said cooling air, the aluminum strip having an initial temperature of up to 160°C and being cooled by the cooling air to a temperature in the range of ambient to 130°C, and rewinding the aluminum strip at a controlled temperature in the range of ambient to 130°C in coil form.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein the temperature conditions of the aluminum strip are sensed immediately before rewinding.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein temperature conditions of the metal strip are sensed upstream of the accumulator rolls.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein the controller is programmed and stores information on the metal strip thickness, width and travel speed.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the controller also stores information on the heat transfer coefficient, pressure and temperature of the heat transfer media.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein the accumulator rolls are arranged in spaced apart rows of rolls between which the aluminum strip alternately passes and the length of aluminum

strip passing around the accumulator rolls is controlled by varying the spacing of the rows of rolls.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 7 wherein the rows of rolls are spaced about 2 - 18 meters apart.